

GOLD MILL INDEPENDENCE MINE

Visitors to Victor can walk back into time on a trail through remnants of an historic gold mill. The trail and interpretive site at the Independence Mill Site is just below the famous Independence Mine & Battle Mtn. Trail. The loop tour of the Independence Mill takes you through massive foundations that once were part of a gold milling process - the mill once processed 10,500 tons of ore per month from several of the mines in the vicinity. The Independence mill was shut down and dismantled in 1928. The equipment, all metal including metal support posts were salvaged or scrapped. The 2-inch thick, gunnite over wire-mesh, wall sections were knocked down and left where they fell. The site has been off limits until opened as a trail and interpretive site.

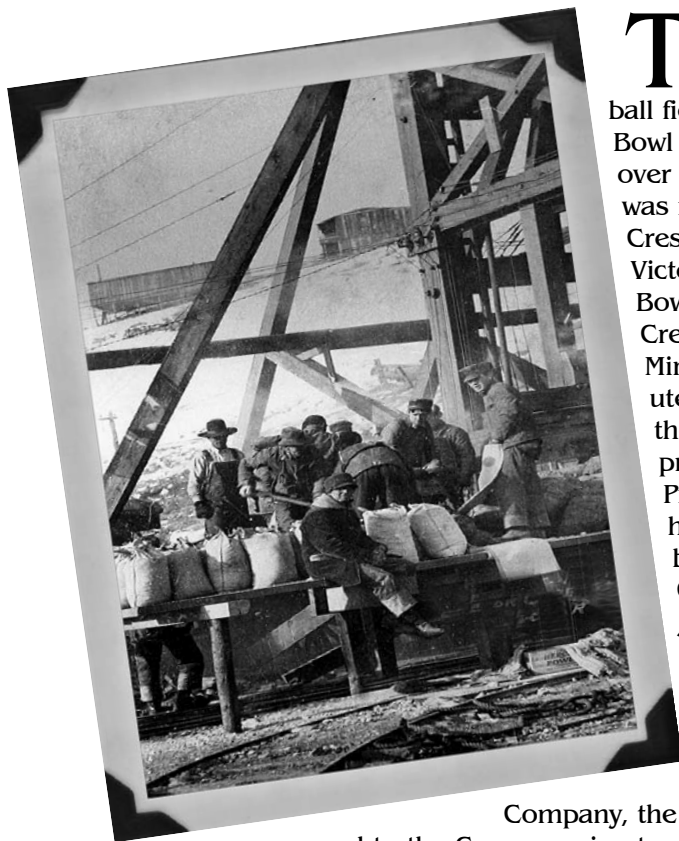
There are 2 trailheads: One is off the American Eagles Road, across from the Independence Mine and Battle Mtn. Trail. The second is off County Road 81 across from the Battle Mountain Kiosk Interpretive Site.

Please do not climb on the foundations for your safety and the preservation of the structures for future generations. The mill site is privately owned by Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring snacks and water. The closest facilities are in Victor. The trail is closed to motorized vehicles.

GRESSON ORE SORTING

It was critical for the miner to sort out his ore so that a smaller quantity of material of a higher grade could be sent to the mill for further processing. Across from the mill site at the Battle Mountain Trail entrance, the original Cresson Mine ore sorting equipment has been preserved. Interpretative signage at the Independence Mine, illustrates a crucial step in the processing of the district gold ores. The machinery represents the procedure used by the Independence and most of the other large mines in the district.

VISIT THE GRESSON MINE HEADFRAME



The large steel headframe adjacent to the baseball field in Victor's Gold Bowl does not stand over a mine shaft. It was moved from the Cresson Mine west of Victor to the Gold Bowl by the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Co. as a tribute to the "miners of the district, past, present and future." Prior to 1923, the headframe had been erected at the Golden Cycle mine just west of Goldfield. After the Golden Cycle was purchased by the Vindicator Gold Mining

Company, the headframe was moved to the Cresson mine to replace a small wooden structure. The Cresson mine, one of the larger producers of the district, was the site of the famous geode-like cavity found in 1914 on the 1200 level of the mine. From the room sized cavity (40' x 15' x 28' high), 60,000 ounces of gold were recovered which were valued at \$1,200,000 at that time.



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